

## Appointment

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**From:** Contreras, Peter [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3C7E515833814B74A7EBAFCFEF8B6322-CONTRERAS, PETER]  
**Sent:** 11/19/2020 7:51:27 PM  
**To:** Contreras, Peter [Contreras.Peter@epa.gov]; Martinson, Mathew [Martinson.Mathew@epa.gov]; Kenknight, Jeff [Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** National Accomplishments Report Submissions  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting  
**Start:** 11/19/2020 8:30:00 PM  
**End:** 11/19/2020 8:45:00 PM  
**Show Time As:** Busy

Mat: short chat would be easiest.

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**From:** Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:33 AM  
**To:** Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>; Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: ACTION NEEDED BY WEDNESDAY! National Accomplishments Report Submissions

Peter – Connected with Dan. He thought the last paragraph on the longer version was not a concern, but wanted to better understand where you (and Jeff) might be coming from in terms of concerns. He was sensitive to our experiences in May/June in terms of level of attention this effort garnered. I wasn't able to represent your concern to him. Happy to talk if that's easier. I'm open at 12:30.

Mathew J. Martinson, P.E., BCEE  
CAPT, USPHS  
Chief, Permitting, Drinking Water and Infrastructure Branch  
U.S. EPA, Region 10  
Phone: 206-553-6334 (Direct)  

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**From:** Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:05 AM  
**To:** Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>; Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: ACTION NEEDED BY WEDNESDAY! National Accomplishments Report Submissions

Hi Mat: I'm a little wary of highlighting this while it still feel like a work in progress. Given OECA and ORCs last comments on the recent briefing paper, would the AA's for OW, OECA, & OGC agree? I had a couple minor edits in red below to accent your caveats, and would guess it might need to be shorter given the example below it. Hope that helps.

Here's a suggestion for shorter version:

**EPA completes initial assessment of SDWA 1431 Petition in Oregon**

*In response to a petition submitted to EPA in January 2020, an Inter-Divisional team from EPA Region 10, with participation from OECA, completed an independent initial inquiry and review of the substance of the complaint raised by a group of nine petitioners. These nine entities jointly petitioned the EPA to exercise emergency powers to address groundwater contamination in the Lower Umatilla Basin in Oregon. The EPA team, led by Water and Enforcement programs, worked diligently and quickly to ascertain information and the threat to human health and the environment, interviewed Oregon State officials at three separate agencies, and conducted a review of available data and over 1,500 pages of material submitted by the petitioners. Additionally, EPA leadership was kept apprised of the developments throughout, including a briefing to multiple Assistant Administrators that occurred on June 4, 2020. EPA is now seeking a mutli-stakeholder solution with state agencies to address potential risks to nitrates in private wells.*

**Peter Contreras** | Chief  
Field, Data & Drinking Water Enforcement Section  
Water Enforcement & Field Branch (20C-04)  
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division  
Seattle | US EPA  
206 553 6708

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**From:** Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 10:13 AM  
**To:** Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>; Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: ACTION NEEDED BY WEDNESDAY! National Accomplishments Report Submissions  
**Importance:** High

Peter and Jeff – Apologies for the urgent and short notice. This if for the “Accomplishments Report Submission”, and it has an extremely short turnaround.

Dan asked that I submit something for the below, as it relates to the LUBGWMA. I was careful and intentional to avoid being conclusory or announcing our findings. Rather, I'm highlighting the cooperation under the backdrop of

unprecedented events of 2020. If you wouldn't mind letting me know what you think (ASAP, sorry), that would be much appreciated.

*In response to a petition submitted to EPA in January 2020, an Inter-Divisional team from EPA Region 10, with participation from OECA, completed an independent initial inquiry and review of the substance of the complaint raised by a group of nine petitioners. These nine entities jointly petitioned the EPA to exercise emergency powers to address groundwater contamination in the Lower Umatilla Basin in Oregon. The EPA team, led by Water and Enforcement programs, worked diligently and quickly to ascertain information and the threat to human health and the environment, interviewed Oregon State officials at three separate agencies, and conducted a review of available data and over 1,500 pages of material submitted by the petitioners. Additionally, EPA leadership was kept apprised of the developments throughout, including a briefing to multiple Assistant Administrators that occurred on June 4, 2020. EPA will continue to seek a multi-stakeholder solution with state agencies to address potential risks to nitrates in private wells.*

*During the initial inquiry and subsequent follow-up it became clear that the States faced challenging circumstances in 2020, not the least of which were loss of funding from Centers for Disease Control, for an individual (private) well program, and the backdrop of public health and fiscal challenges resulting from two unprecedented events: a global pandemic and unprecedented wildfires.*

*The noteworthy success of this effort, especially given the broader events, was the balance of independent in-depth inquiry and relationship development that the EPA team achieved with multiple state agency stakeholders. Throughout the effort in 2020, the State officials recognized EPA's role and authority and was exceptionally responsive to inquiries and requests for information. EPA staff and managers on the team were able to convey the depth of concern, while doing so in a way that strengthened the EPA and State relationships. This approach has resulted in a joint problem-solving approach that continues despite the ongoing and significant environmental and potential human health challenges posed by the wildfires.*

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**From:** Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 7:58 AM  
**To:** Chung, Angela <Chung.Angela@epa.gov>; Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>; Grandinetti, Cami <Grandinetti.Cami@epa.gov>; Murchie, Peter <Murchie.Peter@epa.gov>; Burgess, Karen <Burgess.Karen@epa.gov>; Poulson, Susan <Poulson.Susan@epa.gov>; Croxton, David <Croxton.David@epa.gov>; Shaw, Hanh <Shaw.Hanh@epa.gov>; Grafe, Cyndi <Grafe.Cyndi@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: ACTION NEEDED BY WEDNESDAY! National Accomplishments Report Submissions

Well, this differs in several ways from what I heard yesterday, but the bottom line is that I intend to submit the standing up of the CRB program and one other yet to be determined. If you want to suggest another candidate, please let Angela and me know. Thx.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Holsman, Marianne" <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>  
**Date:** November 16, 2020 at 5:59:03 PM PST

To: R10-ET Mail Group <R10ET\_Mail\_Group@epa.gov>

Subject: **ACTION NEEDED BY WEDNESDAY! National Accomplishments Report Submissions**

Hello ET! Happy Monday!

As you have already heard from Michelle and Chris, again this year the Agency will produce an annual accomplishments report, or “year in review” document. All regions and NPMs are being asked to submit accomplishments for the report, and so **we are asking for your help identifying your programs’ top accomplishments that you would like to see featured in the national report.**

Below I’ve included the message from Doug Benevento to the RA’s describing what HQ is looking for in this document. You will see he notes that for this year, accomplishments could span not only this past year, but also the past four years of work. Take a look at the links highlighted in yellow below (very bottom of this message) for the reports from 2018 and 2019 to see what was included from the regions and the level of detail needed (not much!). You will see that each region’s submissions spanned one or two pages max in the national document. I’ve also pasted below one of our Region 10 items that was included in last year’s report – about our work with the Warm Springs Tribe on their drinking water infrastructure emergency – to illustrate the kind of write ups we are looking for.

**The ask:** Please send me by **Wednesday COB** two items from your programs that illustrate major regional accomplishments either from this past year or from the past four years. As much as possible, please keep the submissions:

- \*short (a few paragraphs);
- \*compelling (answers the “so what?” question, ie., why is this important, what is the impact?);
- \*actively written; and
- \*with numbers and data wherever possible.

Michelle and I will also cull through what we have in the Org Assessment and other resources in search of other possible accomplishments.

Thank you in advance and as always, for your help!! We appreciate it!! Call, skype, Teams me with any questions!

Here are is the example from the national 2019 document and below that is the Doug B. message and the links to previous reports.

**Non-responsive per agreement**

Message from Doug Benevento to RAs:

Colleagues:

It's that time of year again!

We need every program and regional office to submit their section for the 2020 year in review. This can include progress made on issues during the past few years. It doesn't have to be brand new. Please provide descriptions and make references to links to press releases, news articles, etc. Please ensure these sections highlight the notable progress made during the past four years and improves upon work done by previous administrations.

Unlike last year, we will need more than just a list of accomplishments. We will need something more substantial to work off of to guide the overall document that Molly Block, Micah Meadowcroft and Jess McFaul will ultimately compile and design.

Please see the 2017, 2018, and 2019 accomplishments reports below to give you an idea of what we will produce. We will need these submitted to Molly Block by COB NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>.

[https://archive.epa.gov/epa/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/year\\_in\\_review\\_3.5.18.pdf](https://archive.epa.gov/epa/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/year_in_review_3.5.18.pdf)

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-01/documents/epa\\_2018\\_yearinreview\\_0128-4.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-01/documents/epa_2018_yearinreview_0128-4.pdf)

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-02/documents/hq\\_2019\\_year\\_in\\_review.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-02/documents/hq_2019_year_in_review.pdf)

Doug

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